

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 04535 271501 Z

42

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-11 EA-11 NEA-10 ADP-00 ACDA-19 RSR-01

COME-00 L-03 SCI-06 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

SS-15 NSC-10 NSF-04 H-02 AID-20 (ADP) W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2597

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

DOD ARPA WASHDC

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: TGEN, ET, TU, CO, BR, AR, AS, SL, PK, ID, AF, RP, IN, IR, NZ

SUBJECT: SEISMIC RESEARCH OBSERVATORIES PROGRAM

REF: A . STATE 94467; B. BA 4154

1. SCICOUN HAS DISCUSSED UPGRADING OF ARGENTINE SEISMOLOGICAL
STATION AS INSTRUCTED IN REF A WITH DIRECTOR OF LAT PLATA SEISMO-
LOGICAL OBSERVATORY (GERSHANIK) AND SENIOR SCIENTIST (SIERRA).
AS WOULD BE EXPECTED, BOTH GERSHANIK AND SIERRA WERE PLEASED THAT
ARGENTINE STATION INCLUDED IN UPGRADING PROGRAM AND EXTREMELY
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PAGE 02 BUENOS 04535 271501 Z

INTERESTED IN HAVING THIS IMPROVEMENT TAKE PLACE. HOWEVER, AS EQUALLY FORSEEABLE, THEY HAVE SERIOUS DOUBT, WHICH EMBASSY SHARES, WHETHER UNDER PRESENT ARGENTINE CONDITIONS, ESPECIALLY THOSE

PREVAILING IN UNIVERSITIES (LA PLATA OBSERVATORY IS UNIT OF UNIVERSITY OF LA PLATA), FORMAL GOVERNMENT APPROVAL FOR THIS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM CAN BE SECURED. THEY POINTED OUT THAT WHILE PRESENT EQUIPMENT OF LA PLATA OBSERVATORY WAS OBTAINED UNDER PROJECT VELA ON THE BASIS OF PERSONAL CONTACTS BETWEEN THEM AND NOA OFFICIALS, WHICH HAVE NEVER BEEN REDUCED TO FORMAL AGREEMENT, CONDITIONS HAVE

NOW CHANGED FUNDAMENTALLY AND FORMAL GOVERNMENT APPROVAL IS A PREREQUISITE IN PROCEEDING WITH THIS COLLABORATIVE PROGRAM WITH NOA AND ARPA. EMBASSY FULLY SHARES THIS POINT OF VIEW. NEVERTHELESS, THESE OFFICIALS INDICATED READINESS TO SUPPORT DESIRABILITY OF PROGRAM IF FORMAL REQUEST THROUGH FOREIGN MINISTRY IS REFERRED TO

UNIVERSITY.

2. FURTHER DIFFICULTY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF UPGRADING PROGRAM IS LACK OF LOCAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR ESTABLISHMENT TANDIL OBSERVATORY. GERSHANIK AND SIERRA IN FULL AGREEMENT THAT DUE TO SUBSURFACE CHARACTERISTICS, IMPROVEMENT OF LA PLATA STATION WOULD BE VIRTUALLY USELESS, AND THAT BENEFITS OF UPGRADING CAN BE REALIZED ONLY BY INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENT AT TANDIL OR OTHER COMPARABLE LOCATION. WHILE PRESENT GOVERNMENT HAS MADE GENERALIZED

PLEDGES OF INCREASED SUPPORT FOR SCIENCE, IT IS UNLIKELY TO REGARD PROJECT OF PRIMARY BENEFIT TO U. S. AS PRIORITY REQUIREMENT, EVEN WITH SUBSTANTIAL US FINANCIAL SUPPORT OUTLINED IN REF A.

3. WITH TECHNICAL SUPPORT OF LA PLATA OBSERVATORY OFFICIALS ASSURED, EMBASSY WILL NOW PRESENT ISSUE TO FOREIGN MINISTRY, WHOSE RESPONSE NOT LIKELY TO BE FORTHCOMING QUICKLY. IN MEANTIME, MORE DETAILED TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION OF UPGRADING PROJECT, IDENTIFYING RESPECTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS OF US AND ARGENTINES, FOR INFORMAL TRANSMITTAL TO LA PLATA OFFICIALS, COULD BE USEFUL IN ASSISTING THEM IN TECHNICAL SUPPORT OF PROJECT. DESCRIPTION SHOULD TAKE FORM OF TECHNICAL REPORT, NOT DRAFT CONTRACT OR OFFER OF COLLABORATION.

4. COMMENT. WHILE GOA APPROVAL OF COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT IS BY NO MEANS ASSURED, AND, IN ANY EVENT, WILL UNDOUBTEDLY REQUIRE SOME TIME TO OBTAIN, EMBASSY CONSIDERS IT PREMATURE TO ASSUME NEGATIVE RESPONSE. IN CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS IT WILL BE HELPFUL TO HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BUENOS 04535 271501 Z

REACTIONS OF OTHER COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF BRAZIL, INDIA, COLOMBIA, AND OTHER LDCS.

LODGE

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ANKARA
BOGOTA
BRASILIA
CANBERRA
FREETOWN
ISLAMABAD

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